addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the claims:

Please replace the currently pending claim 5 with the following claim 5.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, bone marrow, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, a body cavity fluid, and semen.

Please replace the currently pending claim 9 with the following claim 9.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the surface for cell adherence is a microscope slide.

Please replace the currently pending claim 10 with the following claim 10.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the fixative is selected from a group consisting of paraformaldehyde, formaldehyde, alcohol, or acetone.

Please replace the currently pending claim 53 with the following claim 53.

53. (Twice amended) A method of characterizing a single circulating epithelial cancer cell preparation obtained from a body fluid comprising adhering a circulating epithelial cancer cell preparation to be characterized onto a surface, fixing said cell preparation with a fixative solution, incubating said cell surface containing fixed cells with multiple probes directed to desired cellular markers, wherein said multiple probes have the ability

to fluoresce when excited at different wavelengths, and examining the cells by fluorescence microscopy for identification of positive cells for each selected cellular marker by concurrent measurement of multiple cellular markers, wherein said cancer cell preparation is isolated from a body fluid using a negative selection process.

Please replace the currently pending claim 54 with the following claim 54.

54. (Twice amended) A method of establishing a characterization profile of a circulating epithelial cancer cell obtained from a body fluid comprising characterizing a single cell environment by concurrent measurement of multiple cellular markers using fluorescent probes, wherein said probes emit different wavelengths of light to distinguish multiple cellular markers expressed in the single cell using fluorescence microscopy.